

## Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02207 030434Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 030611Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9200

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2207

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (FRASER, DONALD M.)

SUBJECT: CODEL FRASER'S MEETINGS AT DRP, MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

REF: SEOUL 2195

1. ON APRIL 1 CODEL MET WITH DRP POLICY CHAIRMAN PAK CHUN-KYU AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS. PAK OPENED SESSION WITH ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY ANTI-SLANDER LAW WHICH HE HAD AUTHORED. HIS EXPLANATIONS ABOUT THE NEED TO AVOID "FLUNKYISM" MADE LITTLE APPARENT IMPRESSION ON CODEL. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT TONGA-ILBO SITUATION, PAK "UNOFFICIALLY" ACKNOWLEDGED GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON ADVERTISERS BUT SAID THAT APART FROM ADVERTISING EMBARGO, TONGA WAS FREE TO PRINT WHAT IT WANTED. HE LIKENED GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON ADVERTISERS TO PRACTICES ENGAGED IN BY NIXON ADMINISTRATION. PAK SAID HE WELCOMED CODEL VISIT AND APPRECIATED ITS PURPOSES, BUT HE CAUTIONED CODEL ABOUT TRYING TO MAKE KOREA OVER IN US IMAGE. CODEL EXPLAINED MOOD IN CONGRESS AND PUBLIC WITH REGARD TO US AID TO COUNTRIES LIMITING HUMAN RIGHTS. HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH LIMITATIONS USUALLY DAMAGED RATHER THAN AIDED SECURITY.

2. CODEL DEVOTED BRIEF CALL ON MINISTER OF JUSTICE APRIL 2 TO INQUIRIES ABOUT KIM CHI-HA AND HIS FORMER LAWYER HAN SONG-HON, BOTH ARRESTED FOR VIOLATIONS OF ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW. MINISTER APPEARED POORLY BRIEFED ON BOTH CASES AND CONSTANTLY TURNED CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 02207 030434Z

TO AIDES FOR ANSWERS TO CODEL'S QUESTIONS. MINISTER ASSURED CODEL THAT BOTH PRISONERS WERE ACCESSIBLE TO THEIR LAWYERS. (CODEL LATER MET ONE OF HAN'S LAWYERS WHO SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. KIM TAE-CHUNG ALSO TOLD CODEL THAT KIM

CHI-HA HAD NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO SEE A LAWYER SINCE HIS ARREST). APART FROM UNIMPRESSIVE REPLIES TO CODEL'S QUESTIONS, MINISTER ENGAGED IN INEPT EXPLANATION OF THE ROKG'S NEED TO ARREST "COMMUNISTS" LIKE KIM CHI-HA AND HAN. CODEL LATER INDICATED TO POL COUNS THAT MEETING HAD HAD OPPOSITE EFFECT ON HIM THAN THAT OBVIOUSLY INTENDED BY ROKG, WHICH HAD PROPOSED SESSION.

3. CODEL MET WITH MND SO CHONG-CHOL ON APRIL 2 FOR SHORT TALK AND FORMAL BRIEFING, BOTH DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO STANDARD EXPOSITION ON THE THREAT FROM THE NORTH. BRIEFING INCLUDED 10-MINUTE FILM PRODUCED FOR COMMERCIAL THEATERS ON SECOND NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL. CODEL'S ONLY QUESTION DURING ENTIRE SESSION WAS INQUIRY AS TO RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF ROK AND NORTH KOREAN AIR FORCES. PART OF BRIEFING ALSO INVOLVED ROK PLEA FOR COMPLETION OF MOD PLAN.

4. CODEL HAD INFORMAL MARCH 31 SESSION (AT THEIR REQUEST) WITH GROUP OF YOUNG GOVERNMENT-ORIENTED SCHOLARS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO HAD BEEN EDUCATED IN US. WITH WHAT SEEMED TO BE UNCANNY ABILITY TO DEFEAT THEIR OWN PURPOSES, MEMBERS OF GROUP PROCEEDED TO PROUDLY RECOUNT THEIR FIGHT TO PREVENT UNIONIZING OF A KOREAN FACTORY AND TO DESCRIBE THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AS NECESSARY TO COUNTERBALANCE NEW NORTH KOREAN CONSTITUTION.  
ERICSON

CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** OREP, (FRASER, DONALD M)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006